

In re Patent Application of:

CHAPMAN ET AL.

Serial No. 09/596,629

Confirmation No. 4379

Filing Date: June 19, 2000

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing an invention disclosure over an intranet, the method comprising ~~the~~ steps of:

accessing an invention disclosure template form over the intranet, with the invention disclosure template form providing the following options

create an invention disclosure,

add attachments to an invention disclosure,

revise an invention disclosure,

send an invention disclosure to a co-

inventor,

view an unsubmitted invention disclosure, and

submit an invention disclosure;

creating an invention disclosure by selecting the corresponding option in ~~using~~ the accessed invention disclosure template form, with the invention disclosure ~~inventor~~ providing information about an invention;

adding an attachment to ~~selecting an option in the~~ invention disclosure ~~template form~~ by selecting the corresponding option in the accessed invention disclosure template form, with the attachment providing additional information about the invention ~~to include an attachment with the invention disclosure;~~ and with the attachment being added ~~attaching a file to the~~ invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink, ~~the file~~

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~~being created by the inventor separate from the invention disclosure and including information about the invention that is not included in the invention disclosure;~~

submitting the invention disclosure by selecting the corresponding option in the accessed invention disclosure template form, with the invention disclosure being submitted along with the attachment ~~attached file~~ over the intranet to at least one evaluator via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure; and

transmitting evaluation comments on the invention disclosure and the attachment ~~attached file~~ by the at least one evaluator via e-mail.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the intranet includes a plurality of users enrolled therein with each user having associated personnel information stored within the intranet, the method further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

creating a profile of the invention disclosure based upon a technical area relating to the invention disclosure in response to accessing associated personnel information of the inventor; and

transmitting a first notification message via e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created profile, the first group of users being within the plurality of users and including a technical review coordinator, the first notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

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3. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the at least one evaluator is selected by the technical review coordinator.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 3, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

submitting a recommendation of the invention disclosure by the technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation comments; and

transmitting the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the first group of users.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 2, wherein ~~the step of~~ transmitting the first notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

6. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the profile comprises a functional manager of the inventor, a patent attorney, a technical review person, and a contracts person if the invention was developed under government funds.

7. (Original) A method according to Claim 6, wherein the profile further comprises information relating to the inventor including the inventor's employee number, department number, building number, phone number and e-mail address.

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8. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the first group of users comprises a technical review coordinator, a contract administrator if the invention was developed under government funds, and an intellectual property administrator.

9. (Original) A method according to Claim 8, wherein the first group of users further comprises a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

Claim 10 (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, ~~wherein the step of creating comprises~~ further comprising sending a notification message to a co-inventor, the notification message being transmitted via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing an invention disclosure over an intranet, the intranet having a plurality of users enrolled therein with each user having associated personnel information stored within the intranet, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

accessing an invention disclosure template form over the intranet, with the invention disclosure template form providing the following options

create an invention disclosure,

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add attachments to an invention disclosure,

revise an invention disclosure,

send an invention disclosure to a co-

inventor,

view an unsubmitted invention disclosure, and

submit an invention disclosure;

creating an invention disclosure based on an inventor

selecting the corresponding option in using the accessed

invention disclosure template form, with the invention disclosure

being created by an inventor providing and including information

about an invention;

adding an attachment to selecting an option in the

invention disclosure template form by selecting the corresponding

option in the accessed invention disclosure template form, with

the attachment providing additional information about the

invention to include an attachment with the invention disclosure;

and with the attachment being added attaching a file to the

invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink, the file

being created by the inventor separate from the invention

disclosure and including information about the invention that is

not included in the invention disclosure;

submitting the invention disclosure by selecting the

corresponding option in the accessed invention disclosure

template form, with the invention disclosure being submitted

along with the attachment attached file over the intranet;

creating a profile of the invention disclosure based

upon a technical area relating to the invention disclosure in

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response to accessing associated personnel information of the inventor;

transmitting a first notification message via e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created profile, the first group of users being within the plurality of users and including a technical review coordinator, the first notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure;

selecting at least one evaluator by the technical review coordinator;

transmitting a second notification message via e-mail to the at least one evaluator, the second notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure;

submitting evaluation comments by the at least one evaluator;

submitting a recommendation of the invention disclosure by the technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation comments; and

transmitting the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the first group of users.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 12, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

transmitting a third notification message via e-mail to a second group of users based upon the created profile, the second group of users being within the plurality of users; and

transmitting the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the second group of users.

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14. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 13, wherein ~~the step of~~ transmitting the third notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

15. (Original) A method according to Claim 13, wherein the second group of users comprises a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 12, wherein ~~the step of~~ transmitting the first notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

17. (Original) A method according to Claim 12, wherein the profile comprises a functional manager of the inventor, a patent attorney, a technical review person, and a contracts person if the invention was developed under government funds.

18. (Original) A method according to Claim 17, wherein the profile further comprises information relating to the inventor including the inventor's employee number, department number, building number, phone number and e-mail address.

19. (Original) A method according to Claim 12, wherein the first group of users comprises a technical review coordinator, a contract administrator if the invention was developed under government funds, and an intellectual property

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administrator.

Claim 20 (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 12, ~~wherein the step of creating comprises~~ further comprising sending a notification message to a co-inventor, the notification message being transmitted via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

Claims 22-30 (Cancelled).

31. (Currently Amended) An intranet for distributing an invention disclosure comprising:

at least one computing device comprising a plurality of software modules, said plurality of software modules comprising
a first software module for accessing an
invention disclosure template form over the intranet,
with the invention disclosure template form providing
the following user options

create an invention disclosure,
add attachments to an invention disclosure,
revise an invention disclosure,
send an invention disclosure to a co-
inventor,
view an unsubmitted invention disclosure, and
submit an invention disclosure,

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a second software module for creating an invention disclosure based on a user selecting the corresponding option in using the accessed invention disclosure template form, with the invention disclosure being created by an inventor providing additional and including information about an invention,

a third software module for adding an attachment to selecting an option in the invention disclosure template form based on the user selecting the corresponding option in the accessed invention disclosure template form, with the attachment providing additional information about the invention and with the attachment being added without the use of a hyperlink, to include an attachment with the invention disclosure,

~~a fourth software module for attaching a file to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink, the file being created by the inventor separate from the invention disclosure and including information about the invention that is not included in the invention disclosure,~~

a fourth ~~fifth~~ software module for submitting the invention disclosure based on the user selecting the corresponding option in the accessed invention disclosure template form, with the invention disclosure being submitted along with the attachment attached file over the intranet to at least one evaluator via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure,

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and

a fifth ~~sixth~~ software module for transmitting evaluation comments on the invention disclosure and the attachment ~~attached-file~~ by the at least one evaluator via e-mail.

32. (Currently Amended) An intranet according to Claim 31, wherein the intranet includes a plurality of users enrolled therein with each user having associated personnel information stored within the intranet, further comprising:

a sixth ~~seventh~~ software module for creating a profile of the invention disclosure based upon a technical area relating to the invention disclosure in response to accessing associated personnel information of the inventor; and

a seventh ~~an-eight~~ software module for transmitting a first notification message via e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created profile, the first group of users being within the plurality of users and including a technical review coordinator, the first notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

33. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 32, wherein the at least one evaluator is selected by the technical review coordinator.

34. (Currently Amended) An intranet according to Claim 33, further comprising:

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an eight ~~a-ninth~~ software module for submitting a recommendation of the invention disclosure by the technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation comments; and

a ninth ~~tenth~~ software module for transmitting the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the first group of users.

35. (Currently Amended) An intranet according to Claim 32, wherein the seventh ~~eighth~~ software module for transmitting the first notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

36. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 32, wherein the profile comprises a functional manager of the inventor, a patent attorney, a technical review person, and a contracts person if the invention was developed under government funds.

37. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 36, wherein the profile further comprises information relating to the inventor including the inventor's employee number, department number, building number, phone number and e-mail address.

38. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 32, wherein the first group of users comprises a technical review coordinator, a contract administrator if the invention was developed under government funds, and an intellectual property

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administrator.

39. (Original) An intranet according to Claim 38, wherein the first group of users further comprises a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

Claim 40 (Cancelled).

41. (Currently Amended) An intranet according to Claim 31, wherein the fourth ~~fifth~~ software module comprises instructions for sending a notification message to a co-inventor, the notification message being transmitted via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

Claims 42-60 (Cancelled).

61. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for causing a computer to perform steps comprising:

accessing an invention disclosure template form over the intranet, with the invention disclosure template form providing the following user options

create an invention disclosure,
add attachments to an invention disclosure,
revise an invention disclosure,
send an invention disclosure to a co-
inventor,

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view an unsubmitted invention disclosure, and
submit an invention disclosure;

creating an invention disclosure based on a user
selecting the corresponding option in using the invention
disclosure template form, with the invention disclosure being
created by an inventor providing additional and including
information about an invention;

adding an attachment to selecting an option in the
invention disclosure template form based on the user selecting
the corresponding option in the accessed invention disclosure
template form, with the attachment providing additional
information about the invention to include an attachment with the
invention disclosure; and with the attachment being added without
the use of a hyperlink;

attaching a file to the invention disclosure without
the use of a hyperlink, the file being created by the inventor
separate from the invention disclosure and including information
about the invention that is not included in the invention
disclosure;

submitting the invention disclosure based on the user
selecting the corresponding option in the accessed invention
disclosure template form, with the invention disclosure being
submitted along with the attachment attached file over the
intranet to at least one evaluator via e-mail with a hyperlink to
the invention disclosure; and

transmitting evaluation comments on the invention
disclosure and the attachment attached file by the at least one

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evaluator via e-mail.

62. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 61, wherein the intranet includes a plurality of users enrolled therein with each user having associated personnel information stored within the intranet, the computer-readable medium further causing the computer to perform steps comprising:

generating a profile of the invention disclosure, the profile being based upon a technical area relating to the invention disclosure in response to accessing associated personnel information of the inventor; and

generating a first notification message to be transmitted via e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created profile, the first group of users being within the plurality of users and including a technical review coordinator, the first notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

63. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 62, further causing the computer to perform steps comprising selection of the at least one evaluator by the technical review coordinator.

64. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 63, further causing the computer to perform steps comprising:

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generating a recommendation of the invention disclosure submitted by the technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation comments; and

generating an e-mail message of the recommendation of the invention disclosure to be transmitted to the first group of users.

65. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 62, wherein the profile comprises data representing a functional manager of the inventor, a patent attorney, a technical review person, and a contracts person if the invention was developed under government funds.

66. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 65, wherein the profile further comprises data representing information relating to the inventor including the inventor's employee number, department number, building number, phone number and e-mail address.

67. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 62, wherein the first group of users comprises a technical review coordinator, a contract administrator if the invention was developed under government funds, and an intellectual property administrator.

68. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 67, wherein the first group of users further

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comprises a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

Claim 69 (Cancelled).

70. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 62, wherein generating the profile comprises generating a notification message to be transmitted to a co-inventor, the notification message to be transmitted via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.